

[Letter from Carita Doggett Corse to Harold Spivacke, October 2, 1939]

Works Progress Administration of Florida

49 WEST DUVAL STREET JACKSONVILLE

Roy Schroder State Administrator

October 2, 1939

Dr. Harold Spivacke Chief, Division of Music Library of Congress Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Spivacke:

Would you be so good as to furnish us with a list of the Greek songs which have been recorded in Florida? We have several Greeks who say they can sing folksongs but we hesitate to record them because we are afraid of duplication. These songs would include the records made by Professor Morris which were forwarded to you in September. We are very anxious to have some comment on these records as we are sure we could improve our technique if we had such remarks for guidance. So far we have followed the methods of Mr. Halpert (whose recordings we witnessed in Florida in June) and the folklore manuals of the Writers' and Music Projects. A note from Mr. Charles Seegar of the Music Project warned us that this guidance was open to misinterpretation, especially evident in our record 16. We were glad to get this comment, but inasmuch as we thought record 16 the best one we had made, we have been somewhat at a loss since that time. If you would comment on that one record (a Spanish record, made in Ybor City, Tampa) it would be very helpful.

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So far storms have made it impossible to record the songs of the shrimp fleets. We have made two attempts, but the boats could not go out and the workers will not sing unless they are actually engaged in preparing shrimp for market. As soon as the weather permits we will try again.

Sincerely yours, Carita Doggett Corse
Carita Doggett Corse State Supervisor, Statewide
Writers' Project

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